Branches of Inland Water Transport of India in Eastern Region

1771. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inland Water Transport of India is having its headquarters at New Delhi and there is no branch office in the entire Eastern region, which lacks coordination and delays the execution of the works;

(b) whether a proposal for establishment of its regional office at Bhubaneswar has been made by the State Government of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the status thereof and the time-frame within which this would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has its Head Office at Noida (UP) and two field Directorates in the Eastern region with Director level officer heading these. They are headquartered at Kolkata and Patna. There is also a Deputy Director level office at Bhagalpur.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

East Coast Canal

1772. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has identified East Coast Canal as a possible National Waterway of India, which includes the East Coast Canal integrated with the Brahmani and the Mahanadi rivers; and

(b) if so, what is the status of the proposal and the time-frame within which the above project would be approved as a National Waterway?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The declaration proposal is currently under inter-ministerial consultation. No specific timeframe could be prescribed in this regard at this stage as the declaration has to be by an Act of Parliament.

Introduction of waterways transport

1773. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce waterways for transportation of goods from one city to another city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is no such specific proposal. However, three waterways namely Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam, alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals having been declared at National Waterways are partially operational for transportation of goods.

I.T. Corridor of Bangalore

1774. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought assistance for the upgradation of 38 roads in I.T. Corridor of Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir, Karnataka Government has sought assistance for upgradation of 38 works of economic importance around Bangalore in form of one time assistance amounting to Rs. 516.00 crore from Planning Commission.

(b) Above roads are not National Highways and as such State Government is primarily responsible for their development and maintenance.